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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/581,968

02/26/2007

Gerald James Spencer

442176/PALL

8386

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03/23/2009

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SUITE 300

WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3960

EXAMINER

THERKORN, ERNEST G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1797

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/23/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/581,968

**Applicant(s)**

SPENCER ET AL.

**Examiner**

Ernest G. Therborn

**Art Unit**

1797

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10 and 11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 12 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-9 and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mann (U.S. Patent No. 5,167,809) in view of Mann (U.S. Patent No. 6,736,974). At best, the claims differ from Mann (U.S. Patent No. 5,167,809) in reciting performing maintenance. Mann (U.S. Patent No. 6,736,974) (column 1, line 55-column 2, line 7 and column 3, lines 5-13)) discloses that it is desirable to replace screens as maintenance on pistons and that screen replacing maintenance may be performed after accessing the second end. It would have been obvious to perform maintenance in Mann (U.S. Patent No. 5,167,809) because Mann (U.S. Patent No. 6,736,974) (column 1, line 55-column 2, line 7 and column 3, lines 5-13)) discloses that it is desirable to replace screens as maintenance on pistons and that screen replacing maintenance may be performed after accessing the second end.

The remarks urge that applicants are not clear about the basis for the restriction requirement. As stated in the previous office action, in the restriction requirement of August 22, 2008, page 2, the sixth paragraph, an obvious inadvertent typographical error exists. "Claim 6" should read "claim 10." As such, the office action would read:

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Claim

10 is either obvious or anticipated by Hatch (WO 97/32207). Accordingly, the special technical feature linking the inventions does not provide a contribution over the prior art, and no single inventive concept exists. Therefore, restriction is appropriate.

This would make the action consistent with the International Search Report of May 23, 2005. In the International Search Report of May 23, 2005, Hatch (WO 97/32207) is listed as an X reference for claims 10 and 11. It is clear that Hatch (WO 97/32207)'s piston has sufficient axial reach to be exposed at the open second end of the column. In any event, it is clear that Mann (U.S. Patent No. 5,167,809)'s piston has sufficient axial reach to be exposed at the open second end of the column.

The remarks urge that there is no suggestion to perform the recited maintenance in Mann (U.S. Patent No. 5,167,809). However, Mann (U.S. Patent No. 6,736,974) (column 1, line 55-column 2, line 7 and column 3, lines 5-13)) discloses that it is desirable to replace screens as maintenance on pistons and that screen replacing maintenance may be performed after accessing the second end. As such, motivation exists to perform maintenance in Mann (U.S. Patent No. 5,167,809) because Mann (U.S. Patent No. 6,736,974) (column 1, line 55-column 2, line 7 and column 3, lines 5-13)) discloses that it is desirable to replace screens as maintenance on pistons and that screen replacing maintenance may be performed after accessing the second end.

The remarks urge patentability based upon the limitation that the piston may be lowered through the open bottom end. The limitation reads on Mann (U.S. Patent No. 5,167,809) (the sentence bridging columns 3 and 4) because Mann (U.S. Patent No.

5,167,809's piston may be lowered through the bottom end of the column and hence permits access to the piston.

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to E. Therkorn at telephone number (571) 272-1149. The official fax number is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

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Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Ernest G. Therkorn/  
**Ernest G. Therkorn**  
**Primary Examiner**  
**Art Unit 1797**

EGT  
March 19, 2009